

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
- c) an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide ~~comprising~~ consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 selected from the group consisting of:
 - 1) ~~an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from residue 66 to residue 90.~~
 - 2) 1) an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from residue contiguous amino acid residues 120 to residue 141 of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - 3) 2) an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from residue contiguous amino acid residues 234 to residue 245 of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - 4) ~~an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from residue 351 to residue 359.~~

23. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide of claim 22 comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

24. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide ~~of claim 22~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

- c) an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) an immunogenic portion consisting of contiguous amino acid residues 120 to 141 of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - ii) an immunogenic portion consisting of contiguous amino acid residues 234 to 245 of SEQ ID NO:1.

25. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide ~~of claim 23~~ comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 25 comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

27. (Previously Presented) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 24.

28. (Previously Presented) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 27.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a polypeptide of claim 22, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 22, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 29, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

- b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of a).
- d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of b), and
- e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

32. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 32, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 26, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide.

- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

36. (Withdrawn) A method of assessing toxicity of a test compound, the method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound,
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 31 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31 or fragment thereof,
- c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex, and
- d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A fragment of a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 selected from the group consisting of:~~

- ~~a) a fragment of a polynucleotide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 from nucleotide 170 to nucleotide 220, and~~
- ~~b) a fragment of a polynucleotide consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 from nucleotide 1015 to nucleotide 1055.~~